MAY 0 1 2000 ?

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In Re Application of: John R. HURST and Scott G. HUTTON

Serial No:

09/301,811

Filed:

April 28, 1999

For:

SYSTEM AND METHOD FOR DATABASE

GHU2776

SIMILARITY JOIN

Examiner:

Unknown

Group Art No:

2771

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as first class mail in an envelope addressed to: Honorable Commissioner of Patents and Trademarks, Washington D.C. 20231 on April 25, 2000.

Ann A. Wguyen

Preliminary Amendment

Honorable Commissioner of Patents and Trademarks Washington, D.C. 20231

Dear Sir:

This is a Preliminary Amendment being submitted prior to any formal action in this case. Please enter the following amendments and add the following new claims:

I. Amendment To The Claims As Filed:

Please cancel, without prejudice, claims 2 through 9, inclusive.

II. New Claims:

Please add the following new claims numbered 10 through 36:

10. A computer-based method for identifying, from a database comprising items, at least one item having at least one property similar to a target item, the method comprising:

identifying a target item; and

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